

VICTIM RIGHTS EVENT
Wednesday, April 11, 2012
Massachusetts State House: Gardner Auditorium

Survivors Leading us Forward: Putting Policy into Practice

Survivor Speaker

Sirdeaner Lynn Walker is a renowned advocate for safe schools who has traveled the country talking about the need for anti-bullying laws and meaningful school programs. Ms. Walker's 11-year-old son, Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, took his life on April 6, 2009, after enduring constant bullying at school. Vowing to do everything she could to make sure no other mother has to experience the agony of losing a child to senseless bullying, Walker became a spokesperson for GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, and began speaking out to media about her son and the need to make bullying prevention a priority in schools. Ms. Walker has shared her story of tragedy and hope on ABC World News Tonight, Anderson Cooper 360, The Ellen DeGeneres Show and The Oprah Winfrey Show. She has been featured in The Huffington Post, The Washington Post, People Magazine and National Public Radio's Here and Now Show. Ms. Walker has also testified before the United States Congress Joint Subcommittees on Early Education, Elementary and Secondary Education and Healthy Families and the Massachusetts Legislature's Joint Committee on Education. A lifelong advocate for positive social change, Ms. Walker has dedicated the last 17 years of her life to a career in housing and human services. Currently, she is a strong advocate for the homeless as the Interim Director of Homeless Programs at the Massachusetts Career Development Institute in Springfield. Ms. Walker received a B.S. degree from Boston College in 1987 and a J.D. degree from Suffolk University Law School in 1992. She resides in Springfield with her children Dominique, Charles and Gloria. She is a member of Celestial Praise Church of God and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is also a GLSEN Board member.